GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1855
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2006
PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS PROGRAMME
Ramadass Prof. M

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) The details of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Programme implemented by the Government;

(b)The manner in which the said programme has benefited India;

(c) Whether the Government has made any study regarding the impact of this programme;

(d) If so, the findings thereof;

(e) Whether the Government proposes to dispense with the participation fee by States which are attending the plenary session; and

(f) If so, the details in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) & (b): Programmes launched during the fourth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas organized from 7th - 9th January, 2006 at Hyderabad and being implemented include the following:

Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) Scheme was launched and the first two OCI documents handed over by Prime Minister to Persons of Indian Origin.

A more liberal Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojana-2006 for the benefit of the Overseas Indian Workers was launched. So also an easy to use Integrated Electronic Remittance facility and is expected to be fully operational from the next financial year. A MOU was signed between the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs and American Association of Physicians of Indian origin in healthcare in rural areas and is expected to be operational in due course.

A scholarship scheme for the children of NRIs/PIOs from countries where there is a sizeable PIO/NRI population and less opportunities for higher education and to publicize India as an educational hub, is being implemented from the academic year 2006-2007.

(c)& (d): No. Does not arise.

(e)& (f) : No. Does not arise.